

2025 Annual Progress Report Trent Source Protection Plan

Prepared by:

Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region



1. INTRODUCTION

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region's Annual Progress Report for the Trent Source Protection Plan (SPP) provides a status update of implementation since the SPP came into effect on January 1st, 2015 through to December 31st, 2025.

This report is produced by the Trent Conservation Coalition (TCC) for:

- Residents and businesses within the watershed
- Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Committee (SPC), and
- Municipalities and other local stakeholders.

The format of this report is based on broad categories, identified by the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), to facilitate legislative reporting and tracking of progress made towards the implementation of the Trent Source Protection Plan, and other source protection plans across the province.

3. PROGRESS ON SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN POLICIES – LTSPA, OPSPA, CVSPA, KHSPA

Across the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region, all policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or have been evaluated and determined to require no further action(s).

The percentage of policy progress across the Trent Source Protection Plan was determined through the following information:

Source Protection Area	Percent Policies Implemented, In progress or evaluated as no further action required	Progress Score Assigned by SPA
Otonabee-Peterborough	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Kawartha-Haliburton	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Crowe Valley	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Lower Trent	100%	P: Progressing well / on target

Our overall progress score across the Trent Source Protection Plan on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:

✓	P: Progressing well / on target: Most of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.
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3. PROGRESS ON SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN POLICIES – Ganaraska SPA

Across the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region, all policies that address significant drinking water threats are implemented, in progress or have been evaluated and determined to require no further action(s).

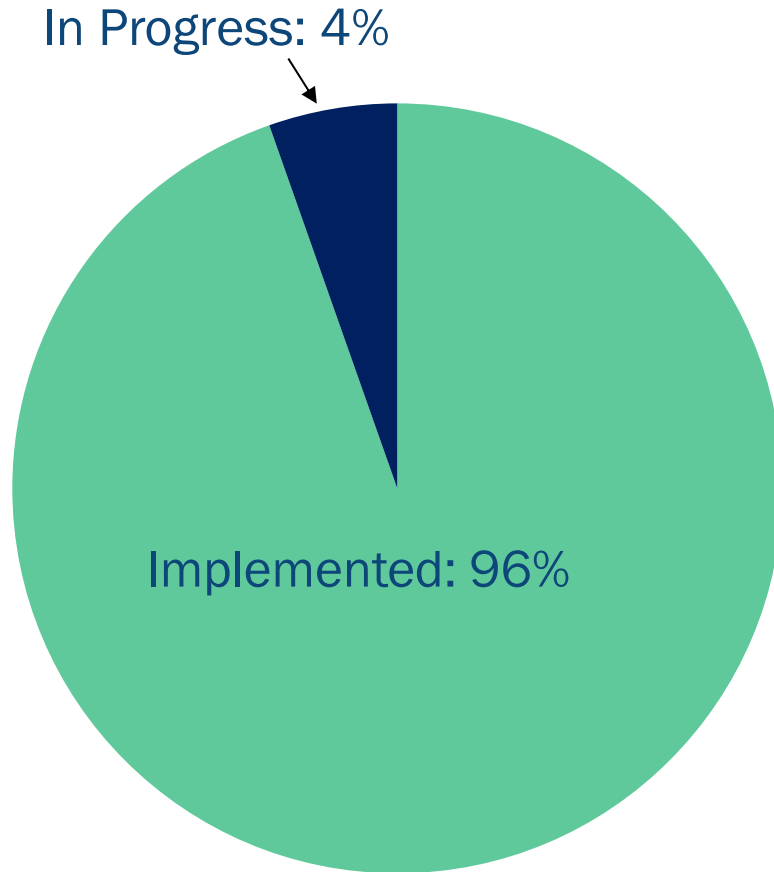
The percentage of policy progress across the Trent Source Protection Plan was determined through the following information:

Source Protection Area	Percent Policies Implemented, In progress or evaluated as no further action required	Progress Score Assigned by SPA
Ganaraska	100%	P: Progressing well / on target

Our overall progress score across the Trent Source Protection Plan on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:

✓	P: Progressing well / on target: Most of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.
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3. PROGRESS ON SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



Municipal Policy Implementation Status *

- Implemented: 96% (872)
- In Progress: 4% (38)
- No Progress Made: 0%

*(Including Ganaraska, and only applicable policies)

3.2 MUNICIPAL PROGRESS – ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

Municipalities and approval authorities under the *Planning Act* are the Implementing Bodies for 56 policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan. The jurisdictions of 43 municipalities lies within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region, however of those, 27 municipalities (22 lower tier and 5 upper tier) contain vulnerable areas where Source Protection Plan policies apply.

For the Trent Source Protection Plan, a summary of key information and progress scores is as follows:

Source Protection Area	% Official Plan Policies Implemented	% Zoning By-Law Policies Implemented	% Emergency Management Policies Implemented	Progress Score assigned by SPA
Otonabee-Peterborough	100% (8/8)	86% (6/7)	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Kawartha-Haliburton	83% (5/6)	80% (4/5)	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Crowe Valley	100% (4/4)	100% (4/4)	100%	P: Progressing well / on target
Lower Trent	71% (5/7)	67% (4/6)	100%	P: Progressing well / on target

Note: All municipalities who have not fully implemented are reported as being “in progress”, including waiting on council approval for updates. Zero (0) municipalities report they have not started.

3.2 MUNICIPAL PROGRESS – ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

In the Ganaraska Source Protection Authority, 5 municipalities (4 lower tier, 1 upper tier) contain vulnerable areas where Source Protection Plan polices apply.

For the Ganaraska Source Protection Plan, a summary of key information and progress scores is as follows:

Source Protection Area	% Official Plan Policies Implemented	% Zoning By-Law Policies Implemented	% Emergency Management Policies Implemented	Progress Score assigned by SPA
Ganaraska	40% (2/5)	50% (2/4)	100%	P: Progressing well / on target

Note: All municipalities who have not fully implemented are reported as being “in progress”, including waiting on council approval for updates. Zero (0) municipalities report they have not started.

Clarington reported: “Comprehensive zoning by-law review to ensure conformity with the Official Plan paused per resolution of Clarington Council in Dec. 21 pending a full provincial review of the natural heritage systems and corresponding mapping.”

3.2 MUNICIPAL PROGRESS – ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

Under the category “% Official Plan and Zoning By-Law Policies Implemented” all municipalities are in process of implementing. The majority of municipalities have amended their Official Plans or are waiting for municipal council approval of these amendments. All municipalities have implemented source protection into their Emergency Management Plans.

Our overall progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives for both the Trent and Ganaraska Source Protection Plans in this reporting period is as follows:



P: Progressing Well / On Target: Most of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.

3.3 SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

While outside the scope of the *Clean Water Act*, The Ontario Building Code (OBC) requires that septic system threats be subject to a mandatory inspection program. Based on the location of individual septic systems, the responsibility to undertake these inspections may be that of the local Health Unit/department, municipality, or Conservation Authority depending on which body is empowered as the principal authority (municipalities).

Compliance Date Summary	
Existing	5 years from notice on EBR (November 3, 2019)
Future	When the plan takes effect (January 1, 2015)

Compliance dates for existing sewage system inspections (those constructed by the following date) are set by the s. 1.10.2.4 (2)(a)(i)(A) of O. Reg. 315/10: BUILDING CODE to be five years after the date of publishing of the Assessment Report on the Environmental Bill of Rights. Or, five years after the construction of the sewage system, in the case of a sewage system constructed on or after the date of publication. The EBR Registry Number is 012-2699 and was posted November 3rd, 2014 therefore the compliance date for most existing sewage systems is November 3rd, 2019, and every five years after.



3.3 SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

The progress of septic inspections for the Trent Source Protection Authorities is as follows:

SPA (Compliance period)	TOTAL # Systems Assessed as Sig. Drinking Water Threats	# Inspections (this reporting period)	# Requiring Maintenance
Otonabee-Peterborough	199	33	4 (12%)
Kawartha-Haliburton	405	25	0 (0%)
Crowe Valley	41	9	4 (44%)
Lower Trent	200	0	0 (0%)

Douro-Dummer: 2 minor maintenance - both were completed and reinspected in 2025.

Cavan-Monaghan: 1 Minor Maintenance, 1 Major Maintenance/Replacement. Both are in Lansdowne vulnerable area.

Havelock: Pump out required / structures on system that were removed.

3.3 SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

The progress of septic inspections for the Ganaraska Source Protection Authority is as follows:

SPA (Compliance period)	Inspection Agency(ies)	# Systems Requiring Inspection (for 5 year compliance period)	# Inspections (this reporting period)	# Requiring Maintenance
Ganaraska	Municipal Building/Septic Inspectors	9 (all in Township of Hamilton)	0	0 (0%)

3.3 SEPTIC INSPECTIONS

5-year reporting cycles are tracked per the Municipality and often don't align across municipalities/SPAs due to differing installation dates. Many are due to be inspected in 2026 and 2027.

Over-due inspections:

2 in Otonabee-South Monaghan are overdue, and notices of violation have been issued.

1 in the City of Peterborough remains outstanding; while municipal staff met with the landowner in 2025, snow covered the tank during the visit. A spring 2026 visit is proposed to confirm tank was pumped in accordance with landowner comments. City staff to confirm septic systems and inspection status.

Source Protection Area	Standard Operating Procedures in place for future threats?
Otonabee-Peterborough	100%
Kawartha-Haliburton	100%
Crowe Valley	100%
Lower Trent	100%

All municipalities and/or health units have standard operating procedures to ensure OBC compliance and thus ensure that future septic systems do not become significant threats.



P: Progressing Well / On Target: Most of the septic systems in the region have been inspected within their 5-cycle window, and a small number required minor maintenance. All Municipalities have an inspection program in place to ensure these don't become a danger to municipal drinking water systems

3.4 RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Risk Management Officials (RMOs) are the Implementing Body for 39 policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan, and utilize the following tools which were established under Part IV of the Act, to manage threats: Prohibition (s.57); Risk Management Plans (s.58); and, Restricted Land Uses (s.59).

Compliance Date Summary	
Existing	8 years from plan taking effect (January 1, 2023)
Future	When the plan takes effect (January 1, 2015)

Existing threats have a 5-year compliance date. Future threat policies are effective when the plan takes effect. In 2020, the MECP approved an extension of 2 years due to COVID-19 and other delays.

3.4 RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Source Protection Area	# RMP's Agreed to in Reporting Period	# Existing Significant Threats Managed through RMPs this Reporting Period	# of Threats remaining to be managed	# Inspections this Reporting Period	Section 59 Notices Issued this Reporting Period
Otonabee-Peterborough	0	0	2	0	50
Kawartha-Haliburton	3	3	0	31	35
Crowe Valley	0	0	0	1	13
Lower Trent	6	9	0	32	26

Nine (9) Risk Management Plans have been agreed to this reporting period. These 9 plans collectively manage a total of 12 significant drinking water threats. Risk Management Officials report an ongoing effort to refine the number of significant drinking water threats based on information gathered from site visits, direct contacts and other means. The number of threats remaining has been revised to not include septic threats, and as a result as reduced to 2 (1 Fuel, 1 DNAPL).

The 2 threats remaining in Otonabee-Peterborough are not out of compliance.

The total number of inspections carried out by a Risk Management Official was 64. The compliance rate with the Risk Management Plans established is 100%.

A total of 124 Section 59 notices were issued for this reporting period. The processes to screen development applications is reported to be working and some municipalities continue to fine tune their screening processes to improve efficiencies. No orders were issued.

3.4 RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

Source Protection Area	# RMP's Agreed to in Reporting Period	# Existing Significant Threats Managed through RMPs this Reporting Period	# of Threats remaining to be managed	# Inspections	# Section 59 Notices Issued
Ganaraska	0	0	1	1	0

Zero (0) new Risk Management Plans were agreed to this reporting period. 1 inspection was carried out in the Town of Cobourg for their existing 1 fuel threat.

There is one (1) potential DNAPL threat outstanding and requiring verification in the Township of Hamilton.

3.4 RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS

The contact details for the Risk Management Officials can found on the Trent Conservation Coalition website:

<http://trentsourceprotection.on.ca/risk-management/contact-your-risk-management-official-inspector>.



P: Progressing well / on target: Nine new Risk Management Plans were established this year to address 12 existing threats. Significant progress was made from last year, as the 9 outstanding threats in Minden Hills have now been addressed. There are 0 threats remaining that are out of compliance, and 1 requiring verification. Several new Risk Management Officials (RMOs) came onboard in the past year, and RMOs continue to work together across the region to share knowledge and address challenges.



3.5 PROVINCIAL PROGRESS: ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

Five provincial ministries reported on progress of 27 policies in our Source Protection Plan.

The ministries listed below have implemented 93% of the TCC policies. The remaining 7% are reported to be in progress. The table below summarizes the progress achieved for policy implementation as reported by each ministry:

Implementing Body	Policy Implementation Complete (%)	Policy Implementation in Progress (%)	Policy Implementation Not Started (%)
Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness(OMAFRA)	(100%)		
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)	(100%)		
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)	(100%)		
Ministry of Transportation (MTO)	(60%)	(40%)	
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)		(100%)	

3.5 PROVINCIAL PROGRESS: ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

For existing threats, Ontario ministries are reviewing previously issued provincial approvals (i.e., prescribed instruments, such as environmental compliance approvals under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been identified as a tool in the Trent Source Protection Plan to address existing activities that pose a significant risk to sources of drinking water. The provincial approvals are being amended or revoked where necessary to conform with the Trent Source Protection Plan policies. Our policies set out a timeline of 5 years to complete the review and make any necessary changes.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks reports that the percent progress made on prescribed instruments (PI) review is 100% for the following categories:

- Waste disposal sites – landfilling and storage
- Sewage Works/Wastewater
- Municipal Drinking Water Licences & Drinking Water Works Permits

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs reports that the percent progress made on prescribed instruments (PI) review is 100% for the following categories:

- Nutrient Management Strategies (NMS)
- Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) Plans

The Ministry of Transportation reports that a process is in place to ensure Prescribed Instrument holders comply with the terms and conditions of their Prescribed Instrument.

For future threats, Ministries reported that 100% are implemented, with standard operating procedures in place where applications are reviewed to ensure the proposed activities conform to our policies.

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3.5 PROVINCIAL PROGRESS: ADDRESSING RISKS ON THE GROUND

Similar problems as last year. Staff have determined that while these Prescribed Instrument reviews are 100% complete, the information provided from their reporting has not been sufficient. The MECP reporting at times lacks details and specifics beneficial to understanding issues regarding our drinking water systems and potential threats.

Our progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:



S: Satisfactory: Most of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan. The MECP's reporting requirements will be enhanced next year due to the conditions stipulated in the new approved Prescribed Instrument Policies.

3.6 AWARENESS AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Ten (10) policies in the Trent Source Protection Plan utilize the education and outreach (E & O) tool to influence behavior and encourage the voluntary adoption of practices to better protect sources of municipal drinking water.

Road signage was identified as an effective E & O tool to raise awareness of the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSPP) and the importance of protecting sources of municipal drinking water. Drinking Water Protection Zone signs have been installed in vulnerable areas across the Trent Conservation Source Protection Region. To date, all required Drinking Water Protection Zone signs have been installed in the four Source Protection Authorities, including 255 under the Trent Source Protection Plan.



3.6 AWARENESS AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Regionally, the threat from Road Salt continues to be key focus for E & O this year with the continuation of the Salt Responsibly campaign. This included stickers to be placed on road salt boxes; and a pilot project placing posters at stores selling de-icing salts. Education and outreach efforts were also involved in spreading the news of our upcoming Section 36 Amendment, as well as raising awareness for the new Best Practices for non-municipal drinking water systems.



3.6 AWARENESS AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Fuel threats, and specifically fuel oil tanks were again a key focus of education and outreach this reporting period. This included information products related to fuel storage and handling, and information provided to local fuel suppliers. Social media posts related to fuel threats were also used in 2024 to remind residents of their potential to impact drinking water sources. Social media posts were also used to communicate changes and solicit comments related to fuel policies as a result of the proposed Section 36 Amendments to the Trent Source Protection Plan.

Education and outreach activities were integrated into Risk Management Official activities and included best management practices as risk management measures in risk management plans. Specific activities related to fuel threats included the installation of fuel tank stickers and fill pipe tags identifying that the location is in a Vulnerable Area and providing provincial Spills Action Centre contact number.



3.6 AWARENESS AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

The Best Practices initiative has been using the science and knowledge acquired from the Source Protection Program to provide owners of private drinking water systems such as wells and intakes with information about how to protect their sources of drinking water.

2025 was the third year of our “Drinking Water Wise Webinar” series. Five free webinars were conducted in 2025 in partnership with our neighbouring Source Protection Regions to provide helpful information for the public, with over 800 registrants, and the youtube recordings reaching over 800 views online. Topics included:

- Well Maintenance and Safety
- History of Source Water Protection
- Cisterns 101
- Septic Systems 102 – Inspections and Tertiary Systems
- Karst Geology and Source Water Protection

Unfortunately, there has been a lack of funding to support this program in more significant ways, however plans are in place to continue the webinar series into 2026. To date, the 14 webinar recordings have a combined 2700 views.



3.6 AWARENESS AND CHANGES IN BEHAVIOUR – EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Our progress score for each Source Protection Authority on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:

Source Protection Authority	Status
Otonabee-Peterborough	P: Progressing well / on target
Kawartha-Haliburton	P: Progressing well / on target
Crowe Valley	P: Progressing well / on target
Lower Trent	P: Progressing well / on target
Ganaraska	P: Progressing well / on target

Our overall progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:

✓	P: Progressing well / on target: The Education and Outreach policies have been implemented across the region and Source Protection Authorities continue to work with Municipalities and the public to implement them in meaningful and engaging ways.
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3.7 SOURCE PROTECTION PLAN POLICIES: SUMMARY OF DELAYS

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region, not including Ganaraska, reports no significant delays in policy implementation. However, policy implementation challenges were addressed through our S.36 Amendment, submitted in December, 2023, which as of March 9th, has now been approved. Through this process, policy wording has been improved to assist in overall Trent Source Protection Plan implementation. Work will be required to implement the new Education and Outreach policies, and ensure the amended policies are properly implemented across the region this year.

3.8 SOURCE WATER QUALITY: MONITORING AND ACTIONS

A water quality issue, as identified by the Source Protection Committee, is where a contaminant is present at a level of concern or showing an upward trend and threatens the municipal drinking water source. The issue contributing area (ICA) is an area of land or water where activities are contributing to the water quality issue.

These activities are classified as significant threats to drinking water.

Stirling Water System

Stirling wells were identified as having an E. coli issue in the raw untreated water. **Observations this year showed decreasing concentration in Well #4.** In response to the issue, the municipality engaged in the following activities:

- Reported annually by February 1st to the Lower Trent Source Protection Authority
- A new less vulnerable well was brought on line in 2020 to reduce risk of E. coli. RMPs continue to be developed to reduce the amount of E. coli entering Rawdon Creek
- Monitored the identified issue through data as provided in the Stirling-Rawdon annual water report. The report also identified the municipality continues to track Total Coliform (TC) hits. Undertook hydrological studies showing the wells are Groundwater Under the Direct Influence (GUDI) of surface water and there is in situ filtration.
- Completed all septic inspections in the Stirling Issue Contributing Area
- All identified significant drinking water threats have been managed by RMPs
- Completed Education & Outreach activities including advertorials in local newspaper, attendance at local events, updated factsheets and door-to-door visits in the Issue Contributing Area

OVERALL PROGRESS SCORING – A MESSAGE FROM YOUR COMMITTEE

Our progress score on achieving source protection plan objectives in this reporting period is as follows:

✓	P: Progressing well / on target: Most of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.
	S: Satisfactory: Some of the source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.
	L: Limited progress made: A few source protection plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing according to the timelines in the source protection plan.

The rationale for the Source Protection Committee (SPC) to select the “progress score” is as follows:

The SPC arrived at this consensus based on a summary of information provided by Source Protection Authorities through the draft Annual Progress Report presented on March 19, 2026 at a TCC Source Protection Committee meeting. The SPC reviewed each section, then assessed the progress score by applying the criteria above. The committee settled on the progress score of “**Progressing well/on target**” because implementation of the Trent Source Protection Plan policies are mostly complete across all four SPAs, threats are being addressed by Risk Management Plans, and septic systems are being adequately inspected.

Alternatively, for more information, please contact your local Source Protection Authority:

Source Protection Authority	SPA Lead Contact:
 Otonabee CONSERVATION	Meredith Carter Manager, Watershed Management Program Otonabee Region Conservation Authority 705-745-5791 x223 mcarter@otonabeeconservation.com
 KAWARTHA CONSERVATION Discover • Protect • Restore	Sarah Lavoie-Bernstein Source Protection Technician Kawartha-Haliburton Source Protection Authority (705) 328-2271 x 224 slavoiebernstein@kawarthaconservation.com
 Crowe Valley Conservation	Liam Bailey-McDade Crowe Valley Source Protection Authority Risk Management Official / Source Water Protection Specialist (613) 472-3137 liam.baileymcdade@crowevalley.com
 LOWER TRENT CONSERVATION	Anne Anderson Special Project Coordinator Lower Trent Source Protection Authority (613) 394-4829 x 219 anne.anderson@ltc.on.ca

Alternatively, for more information, please contact your local Source Protection Authority:

Jessica Mueller, P.Geo., PhD

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